



# Georgia Department of Motor Vehicle Safety

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December 17, 2003

## Dealer Newsletter

The Department of Motor Vehicle Safety is committed to keeping our stakeholders informed. This Newsletter contains important information that may affect you and your customers.

### Dealer, Distributor, Manufacturer and Transporter Tags

With this Newsletter, you will find your 2005 renewal decals and registration certificates for the tags you have renewed through 2005. If you purchased additional tags, these additional tags and registration certificates are also being mailed to you with the renewal decals already affixed to the tags.

#### Where to Affix the Renewal Decal

For the tags you have renewed, a renewal decal should be placed on the bottom, right-hand corner of each tag.

#### Lawful Use of Dealer License Plates

Dealer license plates (tags) are authorized for use in the following situations:

1. To transport a vehicle from one location to another.
2. To demonstrate a vehicle to a potential buyer.
3. On dealer inventory when the vehicle is driven by an officer of the corporation, owner or employee of the dealership for personal use.

Dealer tags **cannot** be used on vehicles used in the normal and regular course of business, such as loaners, rental fleet, courtesy vehicles, parts or transport vehicles.

Dealer tags **cannot** be used by or loaned to any person **not** employed by the dealership, such as a spouse or other family member.

Dealer tags **cannot** be used on any vehicle **not** in a dealer's inventory readily available for sale.

### Temporary Dealer-Issued Tags

Unless the purchaser of a vehicle has a current valid license plate (tag) to transfer, a dealer **must** issue a temporary tag. The temporary tag issued by the dealer shall conform to this Department's rules and regulations. Specifically, the date shall represent thirty-days (30) after the purchase date; the date must be written in bold numbers and letters no less than 1 ½ inches high; the date must be written across a secure strip; a write-resistant material must cover the date. A dealer may print the dealership's name, telephone number and address on the tags they issue.

A temporary tag **cannot** be renewed **or** reissued by a dealer under any circumstance.

#### Extension of Dealer-Issued Tags

When a dealer fails to apply for a title (when a title is required), the County Tag Agent may issue a thirty-day (30) extension of the dealer issued tag.

A request for an extension of the dealer issued tag must be submitted no earlier than twenty-five (25) days after the date of sale but no later than the expiration date on the temporary tag.

An extension of a temporary tag by the County Tag Agent does **not** relieve the dealer from their responsibility to apply for a title in their customer(s)' name(s). Failure to do so within a thirty-day (30) period will subject the dealer to fines imposed by the Secretary of State Used Car Board. Additionally, your customer may **not** have an electronic insurance indicator if the title has **not** been applied for within thirty-days (30).

## Revised MV-1 Tag &/or Title Application

The MV-1 tag and/or title application has been revised to eliminate the spaces for the insurance company's name and policy number. The current revision of the MV-1 application can be found on our website, [www.dmv.ga.gov](http://www.dmv.ga.gov). You may use the current revision of the MV-1 application or you may continue using the old version of the MV-1Z application but you are no longer required to enter the insurance information. This office will continue dispensing the old version of the MV-1Z until our current supply is depleted. Most tag and/or title forms can be completed on-line or downloaded from our website for printing, signing and submission.

### Timely Submission of Title Applications

In accordance with Georgia Law, dealers must **promptly** apply for a Georgia title in their customer(s)' name(s), when a title is required, at one of the following locations:

This Department's Motor Vehicle Services Section or the County Tag Agent's office where:

- The owner(s) resides;
- The seller is located;
- The sale takes place, or;
- The vehicle is delivered.

The willful failure of a dealer to obtain a title shall be grounds for suspension or revocation of their state-issued license and registration. In addition, a dealer that fails to apply for a title within thirty-days (30) shall be subject to a \$250.00 fine imposed by the Secretary of State Used Car Dealer Board.

### Common Reasons for Title Rejects

1. The certificate of title or certificate of origin has **not** been assigned to the purchaser(s) using their full legal name(s).
2. Illegible writing or strikeovers.
3. Use of a limited power of attorney (Form T-8) instead of a Secure Power of Attorney (Form T-8S).

### Renewal Decals or New Metal Tags and Your Customers

During the owner's registration period in 2004, [www.GEORGIA.gov](http://www.GEORGIA.gov) license plates **were** to be issued replacing the "Georgia on my mind" plates.

Each department in state government was asked to identify ways to cut the State's budget that would not adversely affect public safety, public health, public education and the welfare of children.

This Department identified a change that would save the State of Georgia millions of dollars without adversely affecting public safety, public health, public education or the welfare of children. This **accepted** change results in the renewal of the following tag categories with the issuance of renewal decals instead of new metal tags.

Ambulance  
Dealer/Motorcycle Dealer  
Distributor/Motorcycle Distributor  
Government Vehicle  
Government Motorcycle  
Hearse  
Light Trucks  
Low Speed Vehicles  
Manufacturer  
Motorcycle  
Passenger Car  
Trailer  
Transporter

If your customer purchases a vehicle and trades or sells another vehicle that requires the same tag category as the purchased vehicle, your customer **must** transfer the tag from the vehicle he or she no longer owns to the newly acquired vehicle.

The fee for transferring your customer's non-expired tag from a vehicle he or she no longer owns to the newly purchased or acquired vehicle is \$5.00. The fee for transferring and renewing a non-special, **expired** tag is \$20 (tag fee) or \$12 if a trailer plus applicable ad valorem tax. Attach a photocopy of your customer's current registration along with the applicable fee to expedite this transaction for your customer.

In this budget environment, now more than ever, we need you to make sure existing tags are transferred rather than applying for new tags for your customers unless your customer desires a special tag.

New metal tags will **only** be issued in the following situations:

1. When your customer purchases a vehicle from your dealership and does **not** trade or sell a vehicle requiring the same category tag or

your customer has **no** tag to transfer to the vehicle.

2. When your customer's tag is lost or stolen, the loss or theft is reported to law enforcement and a copy of the police report is presented to the County Tag Office.
3. A new Georgia resident.
4. Your customer has a current special tag that he or she is **not** renewing or your customer has paid or pays more to purchase a special tag, e.g., prestige, special purpose or college/university tag. Visit our web site at [www.dmv.ga.gov](http://www.dmv.ga.gov) for samples of available special tags and the requirements and fees for obtaining.
5. Your customer's tag is mutilated to the extent that it poses a public safety concern in proper identification of the vehicle and its owner. In this case, the tag cannot be renewed by mail or on-line since the registered owner/lessee will be required to surrender the mutilated tag to the County Tag Office **before** the vehicle's registration will be renewed with a new metal tag.

### Highlights of New Insurance Database

Insurers are now required to electronically report motor vehicle liability insurance coverage information by the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) to this Department's new insurance database entitled GEICS, Georgia Electronic Insurance Compliance System, within thirty-days (30) of the date the coverage begins.

Insurers must also electronically report terminations of insurance by the VIN. Commercial vehicles registered in this state under the International Registration Plan (IRP), self-insured vehicles and fleet vehicles **must** be insured with Georgia liability insurance **but** insurers are exempt from the GEICS reporting requirements.

The vehicle identification numbers that the insurers electronically transmit to the GEICS insurance database are cross-referenced with the vehicle identification numbers on this Department's tag and title database, GRATIS (Georgia Registration and Title Information System). If the transmitted VIN matches a VIN on the GRATIS database, then a **valid** insurance coverage indicator is placed on the vehicle's record. Law enforcement agencies have access to GRATIS and can easily check to

see the insurance status of any vehicle registered in the State of Georgia.

Effective December 31, 2003, insurance information cards may no longer be acceptable proof of liability insurance coverage when:

- The owner/operator is stopped by law enforcement;
- The owner registers and titles a vehicle in Georgia; or,
- The owner renews, replaces or transfers the existing Georgia tag and registration.

The insurance information card **must** still be maintained in any vehicle that is operated. If law enforcement asks to see the card, the card must be presented.

### Acceptable Proof of Liability Insurance Coverage – Now & After December 31, 2003

The following is a list of acceptable proof of liability insurance coverage now **and** after December 31, 2003:

- A **valid insurance coverage indicator** on the vehicle's record on the GRATIS database is acceptable proof of insurance coverage **now and after December 31, 2003**.
- A **valid insurance information card** issued by an insurer, licensed in Georgia, displaying the insurer's name, policy number, policy's issue or effective date, policy's expiration date, name(s) of the insured, the vehicle's description (Model year, vehicle make, and the VIN) is acceptable proof of liability insurance coverage **through December 31, 2003**. Effective January 1, 2004, this card will be **unacceptable** proof of insurance coverage for all vehicles **except** IRP, fleet and self-insured vehicles. This card must be carried in the vehicle at all times.
- A **valid fleet insurance information card** issued by an insurer, licensed in Georgia, is acceptable proof of liability insurance coverage **now and after December 31, 2003** for a vehicle insured under a fleet insurance policy. This card must show the insurance company's name, policy number, policy's original issue date, policy's expiration date, name(s) of the insured, and the

words “ Georgia Fleet Insurance Information Card ”. The VIN is **not** required on this card. The name of the vehicle owner on the GRATIS database or the application for registration does **not** have to match the name on the fleet insurance information card. This card must be carried in the vehicle at all times.

- **Now and after December 31, 2003**, a **valid binder** issued by an insurer, licensed in Georgia, showing the VIN is acceptable proof of liability insurance coverage **for thirty-days (30) from the binder’s issue date**. The binder must be carried in the vehicle until a valid insurance information card is received.
- A **dealer's bill of sale and a valid insurance declaration page** issued by an insurer, licensed in Georgia, and dated within thirty-days (30) of the vehicle’s purchase date as shown on the dealer's bill of sale, title or title record is acceptable proof of insurance coverage **now and after December 31, 2003**. The dealer's bill of sale and the insurance declaration must be carried in the vehicle at all times until a valid insurance information card is received.
- A **self-insured insurance information card and a certificate of self-insurance** issued by the Georgia Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner’s office is acceptable proof of insurance **now and after December 31, 2003** for a self-insured vehicle. Both this card and the certificate of self-insurance must be issued in the registered owner(s)’ name(s) and carried in the vehicle at all times.
- A **valid commercial insurance information card** issued by an insurer, licensed in Georgia, in the registered owner(s)’ name(s) reflecting the VIN is acceptable proof of liability insurance coverage **now and after December 31, 2003, for a vehicle registered in Georgia under the International Registration Plan (IRP)**. This card must be carried in the vehicle at all times.

#### Insurance Information Cards

For additional information regarding the GEICS insurance database, visit our website at: [www.dmv.ga.gov](http://www.dmv.ga.gov). Click on the Insurance Compliance Information link.

Click on the desired topic: Insurer(s)’ Responsibilities, Owner(s)’ Responsibilities or Penalties/Fines.

#### Records - Release of Insurance Information

A vehicle's insurance status and/or the name of the insurer on the state's records will only be released upon request from: the owner of the vehicle, a law enforcement officer or any other person authorized to receive the insurer's name and the insurance status, under the power of a subpoena approved by this Department’s Legal Services Section.

#### Our Policy Regarding Identification & Applications for Tags &/or Titles

Customer identity is everyone’s business. This Department’s policy requires the entry of the owner(s)’ full legal name(s) on applications for Georgia tags and/or titles. For natural persons, you must enter each owner’s valid Georgia driver’s license number or Georgia identification card number in the spaces provided on the MV-1 tag and/or title application. A natural person’s full, legal name is the name as it appears on the valid Georgia driver’s license or Georgia identification card. If the person is **not** required or eligible to obtain a Georgia driver’s license or a Georgia identification card, please record the valid out-of-state or country driver’s license number or identification number and the name of the issuing state or country in the spaces provided on the MV-1 application. Please attach a legible copy of the owner’s valid out-of-state or out-country driver’s license or identification card to the MV-1 application when submitting it to either one of the County Tag Agents’ offices or to this Department. If an out-of-state/country driver’s license is presented, proof of residency in the Georgia County must also be presented. By law, Georgia tags and titles are issued to Georgia residents. Acceptable proofs of residency are: copy of apartment/house lease, utility bill, cell phone bill, voter registration card, etc. Contact the County Tag Agent for additional information on residency.

You may wish to visit our web site at: [www.dmv.ga.gov](http://www.dmv.ga.gov) for additional information.